

~~CONFIDENTIAL ADRT~~

JULY 93

COUNTRY Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1948

SUBJECT Dissension within the Ranks  
of the Federation of Labor Unions

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF IN

25X1C

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. 25X1X~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

1. On 3 September the Electric Company Labor Union, which is a member of Mustafa 'Aris' Federation of Labor Unions, elected a majority of non-Communists as members of its new Council. The Electric Union was formerly headed by Louis Sa'adah (a Communist, although not an official member of the Party) and was dominated by the Communist Party through its representative in the Union, Garabet Jiknavorian.

[REDACTED] Comment. The Communist workers comprise one-third of the Union.) Jiknavorian's influence has been reduced, however, and the new Council is headed by As'ad Aql. Louis Sa'adah, when he realized that Jiknavorian's influence was waning, abandoned him and joined the present leaders of the Union.

2. Adib Ibrahim, head of the Bakers' Union, persuaded that Union's Council to pass a resolution to withdraw from the Federation of Labor Unions, and notified the Federation's Council of this decision. When the Communists heard of the decision, they seized this opportunity to oppose Ibrahim and to create disunity within the Bakers' Union by giving their backing to bakers who are not active members of the Bakers' Union. Ibrahim and his Union are doing their utmost to obstruct the activities of the Communists, but source feels that their struggle against the Federation will result in failure, unless the Bakers' Union is supported by the Lebanese Government.

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			Auth:	DDA REC'D. 20 SEP 77	
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